Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A programmable device comprising a computer readable medium storing programming code for controlling the device to perform processing comprising:

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a program or segment;

receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and

updating viewer preferences in accordance with the user selections.;

wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

2.   (Original) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program.

3.   (Original) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed segment.

4.   (Original) The device claimed in claim 1, wherein the characteristics comprise at least one of categories and key words.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method in a programmable device, comprising :

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a program or segment;

receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and

updating viewer preferences in accordance with the user selections. ;

wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

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6. (Original) A method in a programmable device, comprising:

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs; and

in response to a command, updating viewer preferences stored by the device in accordance with segment characteristics represented in the segment metadata of a currently viewed segment.

7. (Currently Amended) A programmable device comprising a computer readable medium storing programming code for controlling the device to perform processing comprising:

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a segment or program;

receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and

identifying and displaying to the user additional segments and programs having characteristics in common with the selected characteristics~~.~~ :

wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

8. (Original) The device claimed in claim 7, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program.

9. (Original) The device claimed in claim 7, wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed segment.

10. (Original) The method claimed in claim 7, wherein the characteristics comprise at least one of categories and key words.

11. (Currently Amended) A method in a programmable device, comprising:

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, presenting a user interface that displays characteristics represented in the metadata of a segment or program;

receiving user selections with respect to the displayed characteristics; and

identifying and displaying to the user additional segments and programs having characteristics in common with the selected characteristics. ;

wherein the program or segment for which characteristics are displayed is a currently viewed program or segment.

12.   (Original) A method in a programmable device, comprising:

storing program metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for television programs and segment metadata that includes timing and descriptive data for individual segments of television programs;

in response to a command, identifying and displaying to the user additional segments and programs having characteristics in common with characteristics represented in the segment metadata of a currently viewed segment.

13. – 16. (Cancelled)